



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/521,706

01/19/2005

Paulus Cornelis Neervoort

NL 020773

2618

24737 7590 06/01/2007  
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS  
P.O. BOX 3001  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER
----------

DHILLON, MANJOT K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3709

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

06/01/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,706

Applicant(s)

NEERVOORT ET AL.

Examiner

Malina K. Dhillon

Art Unit

3709

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/19/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/16/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the preliminary amendment filed January 19, 2005.

#### *Priority*

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Norman et al. (US 5,702,305). The reference signs below are Norman's corresponding elements to the claimed elements.

Referring to claims 1 and 7-9 Norman et al. teaches a method of playing a game by means of a game element 14, the method comprising the steps of:

- placing the game element 14 on a first location relative to a game board (col. 6, ln. 34);
- determining, by the game board, the first location of the game element 14 (col. 3, ln. 16);

Art Unit: 3709

- determining, by the game board, a first information item representing game content, wherein said first information item is dependent on said location and a first game being played (col. 2, ln. 50);
- transferring, by the game board, the first information item to the game element **14** (col. 2, ln. 45);
- and receiving and presenting said first information item on the game element **14** (col. 2, ln. 59).

Referring to claims 2 and 7 Norman et al. teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the step of determining the first location of the game element **14** comprises the steps of:

- transmitting, by at least one transmitter located on the game element **14**, at least one signal identifying said game element **14** (col. 2, ln. 50);
- receiving, by at least one sensor located on the game board, at least one identifying signal (col. 2, ln. 50);
- and determining, by the game board, the first location based on at least one identifying signal (col. 6, ln. 32).

Referring to claim 3, Norman et al. teaches a method according to claim 1, characterized in that the method further comprises the steps of:

- removing the game element **14** from the first location (col. 3, ln. 16);
- and placing the game element **14** in a second location relative to the game board (col. 3, ln. 16).

Art Unit: 3709

Referring to claim 4, Norman et al. teaches a method according to claim 1, characterized in that the method further comprises the step of:

- receiving a second information item representing a second game being played (col. 3, ln. 51).

Referring to claim 5, Norman et al. teaches a computer system for performing the method according to claim 1 (col. 6, ln. 51).

Referring to claim 6, Norman et al. teaches a computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer-readable medium for performing the method of claim 1 when the computer program is run on a computer (col. 7, ln. 20).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Malina K. Dhillon whose telephone number is (571) 270-1297. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 8 AM - 5 PM, Alt Fri., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jackson can be reached on (571) 272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 3709

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Malina K Dhillon  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3709

MKD 5/21/07

GARY JACKSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

*Gary Jackson*  
5/26/2007